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ABSTRACT

This report describes the New York City School Library System (NYCSLS), a pilot project aimed at developing a network of cooperating school libraries to participate in the sharing of print and media resources, cooperative collection development, and other services. This report reviews the assessment of the project's effectiveness in the establishment of a data base, the development of collections and staff, and the utilization of the interlibrary loan system. Although the lack of clerical support was cited as a major problem, it was reported that the project represented an important step in the more efficient utilization of available resources. (JCD)

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FINAL EVALUATION REPORT
STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Project Number: 5001-48-02902

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NEW YORK CITY (NYPL) SYSTEM
PILOT PROJECT
1980 - 1981

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EVALUATION ABSTRACT

New York City Public Library (NYPL) System Pilot Project

Project Identification Number: 5001-48-02902

Funding Period: July 1, 1980 - June 30, 1981

Site Characteristics:	Eight public schools in District 5, Manhattan; one nonpublic elementary school in Manhattan; three public high schools in Manhattan.
Evaluation Objectives:	Document the establishment of bibliographic control over school library collections through the creation of a data base connection with the NYPL computerized service; the development of a program to make subject area collections available to project schools.
Evaluation Methods:	Interviews with New York School Library System Pilot Project Coordinator. Review monthly records of District 5 interlibrary loans. Interviews with school-based librarians.
Summary of Outcomes:	Listing of media titles, available October, 1980. Annotated Union Media Catalog, produced January, 1980. Interlibrary Loan System, in operation, expanded from 1979-1980. Data base interfacing with that of NYPL, begun December, 1979, expanded and continued. Inputting of all non-fiction holdings in project schools was 75% completed. District 5 cooperative collections development, begun April, 1980, was continued.
Objectives Met:	Listings of media titles available October, 1980. Union Media Catalog completed January, 1980. Interlibrary Loan System in operation beginning September, 1980, in District 5.

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The New York City School Library System (NYCSLS) is a pilot project based in Community School District 5 and at the Board of Education Headquarters aimed at developing a network of cooperating New York City school libraries that participate in the sharing of print and media resources, cooperative collection development, and other services. The goal is to provide students and teachers with access to improved library and information resources and services.

The NYCSLS Pilot Project contracted with the New York Public Library (NYPL) for use of its remote terminal computerized service. This service enables the project to add location codes to NYPL's master file, and at the same time enhance the New York City School Library System's holdings and accessibility. The project aims to serve as a prototype for schools city-wide.

Through membership in INTERSHARE, a regional multitype New York City Library network that includes the major metropolitan area public libraries (Manhattan; Brooklyn; Queens; Westchester; Yonkers; Northern Westchester BOCES; and METRO the New York Reference and Research Library), NYCSLS provides a way eventually to tap the rich resources of the city and state library system's resources.

During the project's first year of operation, 1979-1980, library teachers from ten selected schools in District 5, organized and coordinated by the project coordinator, using the plan developed by the project director, worked with NYPL to establish a data base and facilitated the development of a cooperative collection plan involving the following schools and their specialized in-depth subject area collection: P.S. 125 (elementary science); I.S. 195 (performing arts); P.S. 161 (bilingual materials); and P.S. 194 (Afro-American materials). Through the project, these collections have become available for use by all participating schools.

This is the project's second year and there were 12 participating schools: eight public schools in District 5, one non-public school in District 5, and three public schools in Manhattan. The objectives of the pilot project continued to be advanced and fulfilled.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The original objectives of the NYCSLS Pilot Project were based on the concept of a prototype of nine schools in one community district joining with two city-wide service agencies: the professional library and the Special Education Training and Resource Center. The goal was the establishment of a system that would increase access to informational resources. By the end of the second year of the project, it was apparent to the project director that the base was too narrow to provide a sufficiently wide range of materials to fulfill the goals of the project. Therefore, the project's objectives were modified to include high school library media centers.

The revised Pilot Project objectives are as follows:
The New York City Board of Education will:

1. Develop short and long range plans by October 1979 to coordinate library and information services for students and teachers in selected schools in Community School District 5 and Manhattan high schools.

2. Establish bibliographic control over the library collections of selected District 5 schools by June 1981 so that the data base serves as a union catalog.

3. Establish bibliographic control over chosen areas of the library collections of selected Manhattan high schools.

4. Design and institute a cooperative collection development program by April 1980, to be carried out by selected schools in District 5, so that special in-depth subject area collections are available for use by all project schools.

5. Develop an inter-library loan and delivery system by September 1981, which enable participating schools, both pilot project schools and other selected schools, to share resources in an efficient exchange of library materials.

6. Add the existing Central Board professional library collection to the bibliographic services related to curriculum projects and professional development, so they will be available to the professional staffs of the participating schools.

7. Include Special Education Training Resource Center (SETRC) library materials in the delivery system in the 1981-1982 school year so that these materials may be easily accessible to all special education students and teachers in the project schools.

8. Provide back-up reference services, including computer-based searches, in cooperation with the professional library and the New York Metropolitan Reference and Resource Library Agency's Central Advisory and Referral Service (METRO CARES) by April, 1982, so that reference requests from teachers, administrators, and library media specialists in the New York City Public Schools which cannot be satisfied by the use of building level collections can be filled.

III. EVALUATOR'S ASSESSMENT

Establishing The Data Base (objectives 2 and 3)

Progress in the establishment of a data base resulted in the following accomplishments:

Completion of the entry of print titles (book holdings), into the Metropolitan Inter-Library Cooperative System (MILCS) data base from the following District 5 schools:

Fiction and non-fiction*:	P.S. 36; P.S. 125; P.S. 136; P.S. 161.
Fiction only:	P.S. 129; P.S. 154; P.S. 194 I.S. 195

The objective for completion of data base listings is July, 1981. However, because of the loss of clerical support when CETA funds were cut-off, it is uncertain whether that objective can be met.

Production and distribution of an annotated audio-visual catalog, with an index, of the non-print holdings of the above District 5 schools was completed in January, 1981. The title index of these non-print holdings was completed in October, 1980. Approximately 82 percent of the schools' audio-visual holdings are listed in the catalog.

Progress is being made toward the development of the audio-visual materials of the three Manhattan high schools that were added to the NYCSLS during 1980-1981. Inventories at the high schools have been completed and the annotations located. This catalog will feature an improved reference system, using page references in the listings.

Staff And Collection Development

A newsletter, "The Sharing Times of Manhattan High Schools", was produced three times during the year.

Staff development continued throughout the year, both by means of workshops and through constant communication by the project coordinator.

Collection development was emphasized in three staff development workshops attended by the project's librarians from District 5.

Networking and the rationale for cooperative ordering for sharing and extended resources were discussed.

* Non-fiction listings were not available for P.S. 154 due to vandalism of the library.

Use of System (objectives 5 and 6)

Interlibrary loan transactions during 1980-1981 totaled 242 loans of audio-visual materials. Loans of print materials have been fewer; because data base listings are still incomplete. Requests for audio-visual materials are made on standardized request forms and delivery is handled by the INTERSHARE delivery system. Requests for print titles are made by telephone and are delivered by hand.

Three Brooklyn high schools, John Dewey, Nazareth and Sheepshead Bay, although not formal system members, will participate in the interlibrary loan program.

The professional library at 110 Livingston Street has done Educational Program Studies Information Service (EPSIS) searches from November through June for teachers, administrators, and other professional educators.

IV. SUMMARY AND RECCOMENDATIONS

Because of unforeseen delays in the commencement of the project and in the hiring of the project coordinator, certain of the original objectives were not completed by the end of the project's second year. One aim was to complete the listings of all fiction and non-fiction materials and their entry into the MILCS data base. However, as mentioned earlier, due to the lack of clerical support caused by a cut-back of CETA funds, only 55 percent of the non-fiction materials have been entered. In spite of these delays, the project has accomplished many of the original objectives.

One major need for the third year is the acquisition of more clerical support to replace the CETA worker who had to be discontinued. Because of the widening of the scope of the pilot project, the loss of experienced clerical support could create difficulties in the attainment of the new enlarged objectives.

In light of the city-wide cut back in the library services so essential to the education of New York City students, the project represents an important step in the more efficient utilization of available resources.